

GAINESVILLE The Sun

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H. H. M'CREARY, Editor and M'gr.

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Our Clubbing List.

The Sun and the Thrice-a-Week (N. Y.) World one year.....\$1.65
The Sun and The Atlanta (Ga.) Weekly Constitution one year. 1.75
The Sun and The Atlanta (Ga.) Semi-Weekly Journal one year 1.50
The Sun and The Semi-Weekly Times-Union one year..... 1.50

We will not accept stamps of a larger denomination than 2 cents.

The days will soon be as short as an editor's bank account.

Don't fail to register if you desire to vote in the November election.

Ocala now has a mad dog scare, and the mayor has ordered all dogs muzzled at once.

The recent race riot in Springfield, Ill., has demonstrated to the negro that he is as safe in Georgia as he is in Illinois.

Governor Broward is too busy with his Everglades drainage scheme to consider the question of calling an extra session of the Legislature.

All this talk about Ohio going for Bryan is pure "bosh." The Buckeye State is no more likely to go for Bryan than Florida is to go for Taft.

Gainesville's new Electric Theatre is the finest in the State, and the enterprise of the projectors of this elegant place of amusement is to be commended.

An exchange remarks that if lawyers would increase their fees for divorcing people there would be fewer divorces. It is almost as cheap to obtain a divorce now as it is to get married.

The Democrats of Gainesville and Alachua county are not responding to the call for campaign contributions as they should. If you intend to help the good cause do it now.

Alachua county farmers should devote more attention to raising hogs, beef cattle, and poultry. There is a ready demand for all these at remunerative prices, and our farmers should not neglect these great industries.

If people would only enjoy what they have, instead of making themselves miserable by longing for things they do not have and perhaps cannot get, it would be the best tonic possible for their mental and physical system.

The Sun is in receipt of a copy of a new song, entitled "Little Sweetheart," words by Leonard A. Usina of St. Augustine, Fla., music by Edw. Madden. It is a beautiful composition and will no doubt meet with large sales.

Any person, whether he be a merchant, professional man or laborer, who gets too good for the community ought to either make the community better or move out. We have no sympathy with the man or woman who is eternally finding fault with the town.

Subscribers to The Sun are asked to remember the postal regulation that forbids publishers extending more than one year of credit to their subscribers. Examine the date opposite your name printed on the margin of the paper and if you find yourself indebted to us send in a remittance without waiting for a statement. The sending of statements costs about five cents each and is an expense that the publisher ought not to have to incur.

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

The Sun is pleased to receive and publish from that true and loyal Democrat, Dr. J. F. McKinstry, Jr., chairman of the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee, the following appeal for contributions to the Bryan and Kern campaign fund. Dr. McKinstry encloses \$5 as his personal contribution, with the regret that he cannot make it more. All contributions should be sent The Sun in time for us to make remittance on the 15th of September, at which time we will make our final remittance to the treasurer of the finance committee of the National Democratic Campaign Committee. Following is Dr. McKinstry's communication:

"To the Members of the Democratic Executive Committee of Alachua County.

"Gentlemen: Each of you have been appointed a committee of one to circulate a subscription list in your precinct calling upon every good and loyal Democrat who can possibly afford it to subscribe to a fund to be sent to the Democratic National Committee by The Gainesville Sun as the contribution of the Democracy of Alachua county to the cause of Democracy.

"The party is united upon its platform and its candidates. No dissensions exist anywhere, and victory seems assured if money can be gotten with which to carry the battle into the enemy's country. Each of you are asked to give one day to this grand work. Get what you can, from whom you can, and send the amount to The Sun as the donation from your precinct. Very sincerely yours,

"J. F. M'KINSTRY, JR.,
"Chairman."

JUST A LITTLE HINT.

Suppose the railroads of Florida had acted with some degree of business acumen and had fostered and protected the interior towns the same as they have the seaport cities, who can picture what a great State Florida would be today? And how such a policy would have built up the railroad systems. Every piece of freight coming in and going out would have been so much grist for the railroad hopper. Giving the interior cities the same freight rates as given the seaport cities and making no discriminations against any of them, great manufacturing industries would have been established in all these towns and cities and the railroad companies would today be as busy as bees in the honey-storing season, and then the freight would be all theirs—they would not have to share it with the schooner and steamship companies. Some of these days some railroad man is going to permit an idea to penetrate his brain and those who have their money invested in railroad stocks are going to rise up and call the name of that man blessed.—Ocala Banner.

Bryan and Kern, it is said, will carry enough votes in the Northwestern States to insure their election. The renomination of Governor Johnson in Minnesota will probably place that State in the Bryan column, while the nomination of former Vice-President Adlai E. Stevenson for Governor of Illinois will add great strength to the Democratic ticket in that State. The party is now thoroughly united throughout the country, and the great leaders of Democracy are working harmoniously together for victory. Let every one do his duty, and success will be inscribed upon the Democratic banner when the votes are counted on the night of November 3rd.

There is one amendment to the constitution to be voted upon in the November election which by all means should be adopted, and that is the one relative to education, providing for a levy of a special tax of one mill for the support and maintenance of the University of the State of Florida, the Florida Female College, the Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and the Colored School. The adoption of the amendment will keep these institutions from going to the Legislature every session for appropriations and will create a permanent endowment fund for them, as well as take the schools out of politics. Vote for it.

The big Squier sawmills at Omega have been taken down and it is said will be shipped to Palatka, where the firm will establish a plant.

CHAIRMAN BROOME REPLIES.

Editor Sun: In a late issue of your paper, commenting on an article handed in by the chairman of finance committee in answer to your criticism of a statement of "Condition of City Funds," you expressed a hope that I would give the tax-payers enlightenment, etc.; I will not disappoint the hope.

The report of the city auditor on the finances of the city for the year ending April 1st, 1908, shows that the treasurer had received from all sources, including cash on hand April 1st, 1907..... \$51,880.55 Disbursed, as per vouchers.. 38,927.58

Balance in the funds as of

April 1st, 1908 \$12,952.97

This is absolutely correct, and I think it complimentary to the treasurer that, in handling so large a sum, there was not a discrepancy of so much as a penny, and he also certified that the amount was in the bank to the credit of the clerk and treasurer. This should settle the question of the finances.

Now, I construe your criticism as an attack on the management of the city's affairs by the board of aldermen, and you so state in your editorial of 7th inst. Let us appeal to the records as to the management of the business of the city during these "several years past," say from 1894 to the present day. For purpose of comparison let us cull a few items from the records of the years preceding this year of 1894.

From the records of 1892 and 1893:

A meeting of council called to sell 6 per cent city bonds—sold at 93 cents net. Light committee directed to ascertain from Gas Company terms for lighting the city, the city being in darkness. Report of the committee: The Gas Company didn't care to make contract with the city until outstanding bills were paid. Later, recommended by the mayor that, as the city was in darkness, an extra policeman be added to the force—no doubt a measure of economy, cheaper than lights, or probably could be had on a credit. Light committee directed to ascertain what discount the gas company would give the city to secure a settlement of approved bills, that is, how much of a just debt would the city be allowed to repudiate. The gas company was willing to dicker with the authorities but declined to make first offer. Result: an offer of 50 per cent by the city, declined by the gas company. The company moved as a substitute to accept 80 per cent, if paid promptly. The chairman of definitions, after consulting "Webster's Unabridged," reported that promptly meant quickly, cheerfully performed. After deliberation the council concluded that, while it would accept a proposition to pay as quickly as convenient, it couldn't stand for "cheerfully performed." The result was that negotiations fell through, and the gas company obtained a judgment for 100 per cent and expenses, which was paid later by councils of "the several years past." An ordinance was introduced by one who is today one of our leading financiers to borrow \$2,000 to pay officers' salaries and rent of council rooms, pledging the faith of the city along with receipts from licenses and fines. I suppose this faith was the same, or, probably, a balance left over after the deal with the gas company.

A meeting of council called to devise means to pay salaries, adjust lawsuits, etc., resulted thusly: Ordered that the city pledge \$500 first moneys received from licenses and fines to anyone who would lend it; the chairman of the finance committee was directed to negotiate the loan. The chairman, a leading banker of the day, reported six weeks later: Had made diligent effort, but had failed to find anyone who would lend the city the \$500.

We find this choice morsel in the minutes of Nov. 13, 1893: Ordered, that the president of council be authorized to borrow an amount sufficient to pay salaries to the first of succeeding month, pledging all receipts from licenses and fines during the year of 1894. This is particularly good; this council went out in April, 1894, and the licenses assigned were not collectable until following October, and then for the year ending October 1st, 1895. Think of this! assigning revenues of the city nearly

two years ahead to pay current salaries.

We find that committees were appointed to pass the hat to raise money for municipal purposes; one instance, to pay expenses of a witness to New York. It seems the council sent a few thousands of dollars of 6 per cent bonds on an excursion to New York City. I suppose they got disorderly up there, got into the mayor's court, perhaps, were fined, I think, \$400 and trimmings—they should have had a chaperon.

We find on the records that the president of the board of trade was requested to select three citizens, two of whom should be H. F. Dutton and G. K. Broome, to meet with a committee of council to consult on the affairs of the city—a kind of post mortem.

I must exclaim in the words of Mark Antony (Mark was a man who lived a little earlier, in Gainesville probably, possibly an alderman); listen to Mark: I have neither wit nor words to set forth these things; I can only show you these records and bid them speak for me; but were I Brutus and Brutus Antony, there were an Antony would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue in every one of these "financial stunts" that should move the very sawdust on the streets of Gainesville to rise and mutiny. I must close here this part of the record, but I leave many rare things untold; I will speak of them later in a book I am writing, entitled "The Reminiscences of an Alderman."

We now come to the beginning of the second period—"the several years past" of the critic. In April of this year, 1894, the present chairman of finance committee was elected to the City Council. He has served continuously since, and should be well qualified to speak on matters pertaining to the city government. We had our troubles; for three years we had more or less stormy times; the meetings were not always harmonious; but even through these years the financial affairs of the city showed a gradual improvement. All bills were ordered out of the proper funds, and the finance committee saw to it that funds were provided to pay all 100 cents on the dollar. I had often jeered with Col. Dutton about his tendency to hand in his resignation when some one of his colleagues would step on his toes; I was passing his office on one occasion, after a stormy session of council; he was alone and I dropped in; I remarked: Colonel, I thought of you this evening as I sat at the council board up to my neck in mud; I asked myself, had you been in my place, how long would it have required for you to have handed in your resignation? He responded, "Don't you resign!" I didn't.

Our legacy from the old council was a debt of about \$56,000—partly estimated. I was denied free access to the city books until April, 1897. On the 21st of April, 1897, I said to Clerk and Treasurer Dell that I intended to open a set of books for the finance committee, and that it was useless to have two sets of books, and if he would turn his books over to me I would relieve him of that work. He gladly assented; who would not? This accounts for my keeping the city books, it has been a great help to me in keeping track of the city's business.

On the first day of January, 1898, the finance committee furnished to the council and to the tax-payers the first reliable report of the city's finances now extant. The report is decidedly optimistic; I will quote some material facts from it.

Statement of indebtedness of city on Dec. 31st, 1897:

594 bonds—interest paid to Dec. 1st, 1897.....	\$59,400.60
6 judgments—legacy from old council.....	2,100.00
Balance due on spring.....	4,342.72
Warrants outstanding.....	509.61
Estimate of interest due on outstanding claims, except bonds.....	\$76,811.71
Cash on hand.....	6,971.00

Another report was made on April 11, same year; and thereafter on April 1st of each and every year up to and including April 1st, 1907, the finance committee has presented to the City Council an itemized statement of the transactions of the city for the previous year. These statements show a rapid improvement in the finances of the city. The first

series of bonds—\$19,400—promptly paid at maturity, Dec. 1901, and other claims were gradually paid off. I will quote from annual of April 1st, 1905:

Statement of indebtedness of April 1st, 1905:

400 bonds.....	\$40,000.00
4 coupons—outstanding....	40.02
To cash on hand.....	\$12.34

Average collections on the tax 40 1/2 per cent.

An issue of bonds for educational purposes, \$50,000, were issued April 1st, 1905, and a further issue April 1st, 1906, of general utility bonds, which \$85,000 were sold; and April 1st, 1907, municipal bonds, \$9,000 were issued. These matters are fully treated of in the annual reports April 1st, 1906, and April 1st, 1907, these reports are in pamphlet form and can be had on application to clerk, J. M. Dell, or to the chairman of finance committee. Respectfully submitted,

G. K. BROOME,

Chairman Finance Committee.

MR. BROOME'S STATEMENT.

In this issue of The Sun appears a lengthy communication from Geo. K. Broome, chairman of finance committee of the City Council, which purports to answer request made through these columns for statement of the present financial condition of Gainesville. He says will not disappoint you; but he has not only disappointed us, but the tax-payers who have a right to the information requested. Mr. Broome's long drawn-out communication is simply laudatory of himself as chairman, the finance committee and as a bookkeeper. The people are not so much interested in financial statements, 1897 and 1905 as they are in a comprehensive statement showing the condition of the funds in this A. 1908.

Mr. Broome lays great stress upon the fact that the auditor found Treasurer Dell's accounts absolutely correct. Certainly no man anticipates that Mr. Dell's accounts would be found otherwise, but this does not settle the question of the finances. It gives the public no light whatever upon the condition of the various funds, and if the auditor's report gives this information why has it not been made public as required by the city charter? Mr. Broome says, referring, we presume to the time he assumed charge of the financial management of the city: "Our legacy from the old council was a debt—about \$86,000, partly estimated." But what was the legacy of the present council, which went into office April of this year? Was it more or less than \$86,000?

The people want a full and comprehensive statement of the financial condition of the city, and as Chairman Broome keeps the books for the clerk and treasurer as well as for the finance committee, he is undoubtedly in position to give the public such a report. He says he did not have time up to last April. Well, did he not do so then? Was it because the condition of the funds would not make a creditable showing? Are the sinking funds for the various issues of bonds intact, and money being placed in the treasury with which to redeem the bonds as they become due?

The Sun has no personal feeling in this matter and no "financial stunt" to make. We have the highest personal regard for Alderman Broome and every other member of the council, but we repeat that the public is interested in present conditions, not past; and had Chairman Broome devoted the past twenty-two days to compiling a clear and concise statement of the condition of the city's finances, instead of devoting that time to searching old records and refreshing his memory as to conversations between himself and Col. Dutton, he would have performed a public service. But his article of today can not prove other than a "disappointment."

If you intend contributing to the Democratic campaign fund, do it now. It will be too late to educate the masses that it is to their interest to vote the Democratic ticket just before election. They must be taught to see the light now. Every new convert to Democracy during September will convert another voter before election.